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294. This is a superfluous *forme supposée*, and the forms and discussion here inserted belong to No. 121.

At the end of the archaic syllabary are given the numerals as found in the Gudea inscriptions. Following these is a list of late Assyrian signs—in Norris' order—referring by Nos. to their archaic originals. Next follows a list of Assyrian signs, not developed in the archaic syllabary. At the end of the book we find a few unassimilated signs, and, in outline, the order of archaic classification followed.

The work is autographed in an admirable style. It is a credit to the firm of Leroux, which puts, at present, so many valuable works into the hands of scholars. The work itself deserves our hearty welcome, and the authors our thanks. It is a substantial step forward to a history of the development of wedge-writing.

IRA M. PRICE.

Morgan Park, Ill.

STRASSMAIER, J. N., S. J. BABYLONISCHE TEXTE. INSCRIFTEN VON NABONIDUS, KÖNIG VON BABYLON (555–538 v. Chr.) von den Thontafeln des Britischen Museums copirt und autographirt. Pp. 160. Leipzig, 1887, Eduard Pfeiffer.

The author of the work before us is already well known to the "cuneiform" public through his invaluable *Alphabetisches Verzeichniss*, his *Babylonische Inschriften im Museum zu Liverpool*, and his *Babylonische Verträge aus Warka*. He has demonstrated, by energy and skill, his peculiar fitness for the arduous work of copying texts. At the meeting of the Oriental Congress in Vienna in Sept. 1886, his proposition to publish the inscriptions of Nabonidos was enthusiastically received. *Heft I* is already out, and *Heft II* is in press.

The Preface contains some thoughts that deserve a larger circulation. The author is right when he says that the method of most rapidly advancing the science of Assyriology lies in publishing texts, in putting before the world the material that is now lying in the British Museum, unknown and untouched. The niceties of the language, the proper significance of words, can be better determined after a reasonable amount of literature is published and deciphered, than when we possess so small a proportion of the Museum treasures.

Among the 40,000 clay tablets discovered by Smith and Rassam, the editor has found more than 900 inscriptions from the years of Nabonidos, the last king of Babylon. These he expects to publish autographically in four or five parts—provided the work is well received. At the end of the

text-publication he expects to give in transcription a *Wörterverzeichnis* to the whole work. Each *Heft* is expected to contain 160 pp. *Heft I* contains 265 of these 900 inscriptions; all from the first seven years of Nabonidos' reign. The inscriptions in the parts to follow, as in the one at hand, will be arranged in chronological order.

The matter thus furnished will be invaluable in opening up to us the private and public life of the Babylonian Empire just before its fall, the social condition of the Jews in exile and captivity, and the great moral forces at work in the declining years of one of the world's greatest powers. Father Strassmaier is doing, almost gratuitously, for the science of archaeology, history and exegesis, a work of inestimable value. How few men would or could spend the long hours of weary toil which were necessary for copying from all sorts of tablets, and autographing, the 160 pp. before us.

Real and substantial encouragement should be given to the publication of these texts by every friend of Assyriology. Especially, ought this to be the case, since the work is so well done, by one who is an experienced copyist. In honor, too, to the publisher, Herr Pfeiffer, who has assumed the publication of this work, and issued it in so convenient and careful a manner, allow me to bespeak the patronage of all readers of wedge-writing.

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